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REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

In response to the Office Action dated October 10, 2007, claims 10, 12, 45, 46, 48 have been cancelled and claims 1, 11, 37-39, 47, 73, 75 and 80 have been amended. Claims 1-9, 11, 13-44, 47 and 49-80 remain in the application. Entry of these amendments, and re-consideration of the application, as amended, is requested.

II. EXAMINER INTERVIEW

Record is made of an interview between Applicants' attorney William Wood and Examiner Do on March 3, 2008. Applicants' attorney respectfully thanks Examiner Do for his helpful suggestions on how to overcome the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101.

III. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Applicants' attorney has made amendments to the claims as indicated above. The amendments to the independent claims focus the recited subject matter on embodiments of the invention previously recited in the dependent claims. For example, independent claim 1 has been amended to introduce elements of the invention previously recited in claims 10, 12, 48 etc. Certain dependent claims were further cancelled or amended (e.g. to amend their deficiencies) in view of the amendments to the independent claims. In addition, the claims have been amended hereinabove to recite a practical/physical application or a useful and tangible result in accordance with the Examiner's comments regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

In paragraphs (1)-(2) of the Office Action, claims 1-73 and 75-80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being drawn to non-statutory subject matter.

All independent claims have been amended hereinabove in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation for overcoming these rejections. The independent claims as amended hereinabove now recite a practical/physical application and a useful and tangible result. For example, claim 1 has been amended to recite the use of a processor to perform the steps on those applications in which it is necessary to solve said system of linear equations (see, e.g. page 59, lines 16-18). As discussed for

example on page 59, line 16- page 60, line 29, these applications for a method of solving a system of N linear equations in N unknown variables include those using variables in a Code Division Multiple Access (CMDA) communication process. As discussed for example on page 62, line 13 – page 63, line 28, applications for a method of solving a system of N linear equations in N unknown variables further include those using variables in an adaptive filtering process. As discussed for example on page 64, lines 14-19, yet another such application for a method of solving a system of N linear equations in N unknown variables include those using variables obtained from a tomographic imaging process. As noted for example at page 4, lines 25-30, the use of the claimed methodological approach in such applications offers considerable benefits in terms of efficiency.

In addition, claims 38 and 73 have been amended to recite subject matter embodied or stored in a tangible medium.

In view of these amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101.

V. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In paragraphs (1)-(2) of the Office Action, claims 1-11, 27-32, 34-47, 63-67, 69-73 and 75-80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Yu et al., "New Recursive Algorithm for Solving Linear Algebraic Equations" (Yu). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

All independent claims have been amended hereinabove to incorporate the subject matter previously recited in the dependent claims such as claims 12 and 48. Applicants consequently traverse this rejection because the disclosure in Yu fails to teach or suggest the subject matter in the independent claims as amended hereinabove, in particular methods of solving a linear equation for N linear equations in N unknown variables that includes an equation designed so that a respective auxiliary value is established for each estimate value and a determination is then carried out as to identify whether a respective predetermined condition involving this respective auxiliary value is satisfied for each estimate value. The Patent Office's contention that Yu discloses a "predetermined condition" is based upon the fact that Yu does use a counter variable and carries out an update only while a counter variable is within a predetermined range. In this context, the disclosure in Yu cannot anticipate the subject matter recited in the claims as amended hereinabove because for example, the use of a counter variable cannot read onto the limitation as now recited in all

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independent claims, i.e. that a respective auxiliary value is established for each estimate value and a determination is carried out as to whether a respective predetermined condition is satisfied for each estimate value, the predetermined condition involving the respective auxiliary value. Moreover, in the outstanding Office Action, the Patent Office does not assert that the Yu disclosure taught or suggested the subject matter introduced into the independent claims as amended hereinabove (i.e. subject matter that was previously recited in dependent claims such as claims 12 and 48). Consequently, the independent claims as amended hereinabove are clearly novel and non-obvious over the Yu disclosure. For this reason, Applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

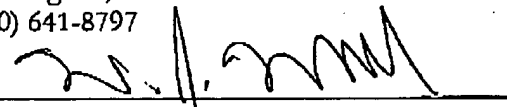
VI. CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is submitted that this application is now in good order for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner believe minor matters still remain that can be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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